

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 72**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**

June 29, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to Native American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 72, as introduced, Alejo. Native American Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize the month of November 2011, as Native American Heritage Month, would encourage Californians to participate in appropriate observances that celebrate and commemorate Native Americans, and would applaud and encourage the observance of California Indian nations for their outstanding contributions to this state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage and the Native  
2 American community contribute immeasurably to our state's  
3 history, and continue to enrich the diversity of our culture by  
4 distinguishing themselves as academics, entrepreneurs, and leaders  
5 in all aspects of our society; and  
6 WHEREAS, Prior to the European colonization of the Americas,  
7 the indigenous people of California thrived with a vibrant culture  
8 and society; and  
9 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage predates our  
10 statehood, dating back to the 18th century, and the experience of  
11 California Native Americans has been marked by moments of  
12 triumph and hardship; and

1 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have withstood the  
2 pressure of assimilation, preserving their rich cultural knowledge  
3 of language, belief, and tradition that has been passed on from  
4 generation to generation; and

5 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage is richly  
6 interwoven with California's diverse cultural and social fabric;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Through their rich cultural traditions and proud  
9 ancestry, California Native Americans have made vital  
10 contributions to the strength and diversity of our society in such  
11 areas of law, medicine, business, education, and the United States  
12 Armed Forces; and

13 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have proudly served  
14 in the United States Armed Forces for over 200 years, defending  
15 the security of our state and nation with their lives, including  
16 engaging in World War II and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with  
17 honor, determination, and distinction; and

18 WHEREAS, The work of Native American leaders has sought  
19 to bridge racial, socioeconomic, and environmental barriers by  
20 empowering and educating people in order to protect Native  
21 American culture and heritage for future generations; and

22 WHEREAS, The California Native American heritage  
23 experience has been studied and taught by academic scholars  
24 throughout the state, and its relevance and importance is  
25 exemplified by the creation of Native American studies  
26 departments in our state's university system; and

27 WHEREAS, The Native American studies program exists to  
28 broaden the understanding of students interested in the history,  
29 culture, literature, and contemporary issues of California Native  
30 American heritage; and

31 WHEREAS, Baccalaureate degrees in Native American studies  
32 are now offered at five University of California campuses and nine  
33 California State University campuses; and

34 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have faced numerous  
35 barriers to business development, but have overcome those barriers  
36 to persevere and contribute to Native American communities  
37 throughout the state and country, and exemplify Native American  
38 entrepreneurship in such areas as economic development, the food  
39 service industry, health care, and banking finance; and

1 WHEREAS, As we celebrate the contributions of California  
2 Native American heritage, let it not be lost on us the tremendous  
3 sacrifice, self-determination, and great continued inspiration to  
4 our state of California Native Americans; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of  
7 November 2011, as Native American Heritage Month, and  
8 encourages all Californians to participate in appropriate  
9 observances with activities that celebrate and commemorate Native  
10 Americans as a symbol of hope and courage to all citizens; and be  
11 it further

12 *Resolved*, That this recognition applauds and encourages the  
13 observance of California Indian nations for their outstanding  
14 contributions to this great state; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
16 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.